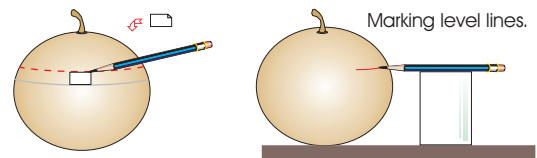
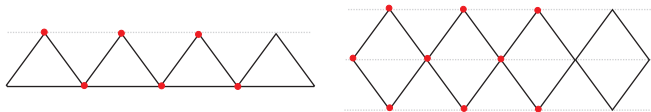


TRIBAL TRIANGLE BORDERS

by Kathy James

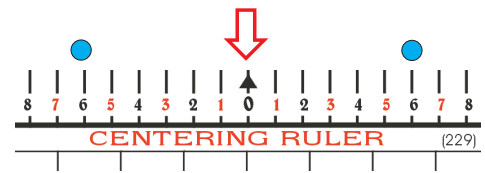
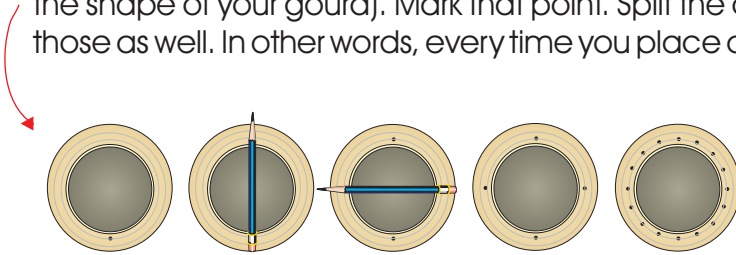
These are instructions for marking diamonds or triangles around a gourd, without tedious measuring. These designs are frequently seen on Native American, Hawaiian, or African tribal artwork and fabrics. They can be used as trim with a focal point design. They can be woodburned, carved, or painted.

Carefully pencil-draw two lines around the gourd—about 1/2 inch apart on a small gourd (egg gourd size) up to about 3/4 to 1 inch away on a medium-large gourd. The distance between the lines will help to determine the size of your triangles.



To prepare your gourd for triangles, you need to mark an even number of dots equidistant along the top line. You can either measure carefully with a measuring tape, divide the space, and mark the dots, or use the following recommended technique:

I call it “**half-and-halving**” your gourd. “Eyeballing” and/or a centering ruler will do it most easily for you. Start by marking a bold dot anywhere on the top line you drew. then lay your pencil across the top so that (by “eyeballing”) it divides the gourd exactly in half (or whatever it takes to divide the shape of your gourd). Mark that point. Split the difference between those two dots and mark those as well. In other words, every time you place a dot, you will be dividing a space in half.



Continue dividing spaces in half, all the way around until you’re down to dots about 1/2 inch apart on a small gourd (egg gourd size) or 3/4 to 1 inch apart on a larger gourd. This distance is flexible and will help determine the shape and size of your triangles. After the first border you create, you’ll be more comfortable with what it takes to make the triangles you like.

Do the same thing on the 2nd line, but do not line the lower dots up with the dots above, but rather line them up as shown below, between the ones above.

Three rows of dots make a diamond pattern. Lastly, join the dots and woodburn the lines! Erase pencil lines and dots after woodburning.

